(d) whether Government propose to sell off such mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) There are 120 nationalised mills under the National Textile Corporation.

(b) The total net loss incurred by the NTC mills during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	785.87
1994-95	424.43
1995-96 (provisional)	466.27

(c) and (d) 101 mills under NTC have been continuously making net losses during the last five years. Due to continuous losses and net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiary Corporations of NTC have been referred to the BIFR and the BIFR has declared them to bed sick industrial companies. The rehabilitation package approved by the Government has been placed before the BIFR for consideration. There is at present no proposal with the Government to privatise the NTC mills.

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में मैनुअल एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों में बदला जाना

*77. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश मे सभी मैनुअल एक्सचेंजों को इलैक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों मे बदल दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के सभी एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों में कब तक बदल दिया जाएगा?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) (i) मार्च, 1997 तक स्ट्रोजर किस्म के 4 छोटे आटोमेटिक (मैक्स—III) एक्सचेंजों के स्थान पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंज लगाए जाने का लक्ष्य है।

(ii) 9वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान स्ट्रोजर किस्म के 2 मैक्स—1 तथा 3 क्रॉसबार आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंजों के स्थान पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंज लगाए जाने की योजना है।

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

*78. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised plans for a large scale privatisation of the Inland Waterways Transport sector; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the other aspects of the plan being considered;

(c) whether a suggestion of a special soft term fund is also being considered; and

(d) the term of foreign subsidy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) While there is no proposal to privatise existing National Waterways currently managed by Inland Waterways Authority of India, transportation of goods on the waterways is already open to private sector. Plans are being prepared to attract private investment in setting up terminals, cargo handling facilities etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Foreign assistance in IWT development, both technical and financial, is sought whenever necessary.